

May 5, 1975

Legislature went on record suggesting and asking the Governor to use the emergency funds and to do what he could in that particular area. After extensive conference with the Governor, he suggested that it wasn't clear whether it's an emergency or not and it wouldn't be defined the same. I would think that the Legislature now could go on record saying what we meant in the Resolution was an emergency and we have thusly appropriated the necessary money to resolve the same. I realize that this is upsetting to some that we take a close look at the Budget bills and insert those that we want to but this is the time that we are expending the people's money. This is the time we have to make a decision on where it should be spent and I, for one, am prepared and will be prepared to take the necessary time to evaluate the expenditures of millions of dollars. If others do not choose to do that, I certainly do but I won't be frustrated in my efforts to do so. The amendment is clear. The purpose is clear. I think the Legislature has said that this is the direction they believe, by Resolution. Now I have asked you to put your money where our mouth is.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, in the six years that we have had this emergency fund, I would like to ask Senator Marvel if he has any idea how much money has been expended.

SENATOR MARVEL: How much has been expended?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, I think we have had this fund for six years.

SENATOR MARVEL: Emergency. We have gone back for the last few years and the average is \$200,000 a year.

SENATOR KEYES: \$200,000 a year.

SENATOR MARVEL: In this area, according to my information, we are appropriating \$300,000 plus the reappropriation. The reappropriation, according to the last figures I had, was about \$200,000 so that means there should be about \$500,000 available and the expenditures the last few years have been about \$200,000 and it is the thought, at least of the majority of the members of the Committee, rather than load up these items with millions of dollars, that it would be better, if we had a real emergency, you could be called back here for only a few thousand. It would be cheaper to do it that way.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Marvel, I believe you are right. The only thing that amazes me is that the Governor of the state of Nebraska has the priority of where he wants to put the money. Now whether 600 people in Hansons Lake and Sarpy County is one of his priorities, was certainly brought to light when he absolutely refused to do what this Legislature asked him to do. So if Senator Lewis' amendment is not approved, then I have another that is going to follow and it is going to strike the Governor's emergency fund and anytime this state has an emergency, we will call ourselves into session or the Governor can